

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 192125
ORIGIN AF-10

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O P 292019Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192125

STADIS////////////////////////////////////
OUAGADOUGOU AND BAMAKO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINS, BY

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 3350

1. WE HAVE REPEATED TO YOU STATE 189919 AND 188629 WITH
OTHER PERTINENT WIRES. WE BELIEVE THESE WILL CLARIFY THE
APPROACH BEING TAKEN WITH THE BURUNDIANS IN THE
THREATENED EXPULSION OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY ROBINSON.

2. AS YOU WILL SEE, OUR INTENT HERE REFLECTS YOUR CONCERN
THAT GOVERNMENTS NOT INTERVENE IN ESSENTIALLY PRIVATE
DISPUTES SUCH AS THAT BETWEEN FOREIGN MISSIONARIES AND
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INDIGENOUS CLERGY, AND THAT EXPULSION BE USED ONLY AS A
LAST RESORT WHEN INTRA-CHURCH ATTEMPTS AT RESOLUTION OF
THE ISSUE HAVE BEEN EXHAUSTED.

3. BEYOND THIS, OF COURSE, WAS OUR CONCERN THAT PUBLIC
AND CONGRESSIONAL REACTIONS BE AVOIDED WHICH COULD HAVE
NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR FLEDGLING ASSISTANCE PRO-

GRAMS IN BURUNDI. IT WAS WITH THIS IN MIND THAT WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE PRESIDENCY IS AWARE OF THE EXPULSION DECISION WHICH APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN AT A LOWER LEVEL IN THE BURUNDIAN BUREAUCRACY.

4. HAVING MADE THESE CONCERNS KNOWN, WE ARE AWAITING THE OUTCOME OF THE BAGAZA/ROBINSON MEETING ON JULY 30. UNLESS THERE ARE UNFORESEEN DEVELOPMENTS, WE DO NOT PLAN TO PRESS THE ISSUE FURTHER AT THIS TIME.

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